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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68837

Kazuo KURODA

Appln. No.: 10/091,027

Group Art Unit: 2621

Confirmation No.: 6418

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 06, 2002

For: DUPLICATION CONTROLLING METHOD, DUPLICATION CONTROLLING APPARATUS, RECORDING MEDIUM AND DUPLICATION CONTROLLING PROGRAM EMBODIED ON COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


Darryl Mexic

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 30, 2004



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the document which is listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

A copy of the listed document is submitted herewith. Also, enclosed is a Chinese Office Action in a corresponding Chinese Patent Application, citing the reference enclosed with the IDS.

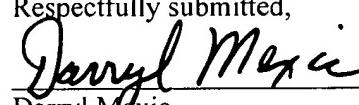
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since such a Statement can be made, one is submitted herewith.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/091,027
Attorney Docket No.: Q68837

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. *Also, the submission of the attached English language abstracts along with Japanese Laid-open Publication No. 2000-216988 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of the reference. Additionally, submitted herewith along with Japanese Laid-open Publication No. 2000-216988 is a computer generated translation of the reference.*

The submission of the listed document is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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23373
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<p>Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(use as many sheets as necessary)</p> <p>JAN 30 2004 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE</p>				<p><i>Complete if Known</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application Number</td> <td>10/091,027</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confirmation Number</td> <td>6418</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>March 06, 2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Kazuo KURODA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td>2621</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Not Yet Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>Q68837</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	10/091,027	Confirmation Number	6418	Filing Date	March 06, 2002	First Named Inventor	Kazuo KURODA	Art Unit	2621	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	Attorney Docket Number	Q68837
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Sheet	1	of	1																

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.